

Middlebury



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Middlebury Register.

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JOB PRINTING of every variety at the lowest prices consistent with good work and quality of stock.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1886.

CONGRESSMAN MORRISON has gotten up another tariff bill and placed it before the House. If his figures are correct, it will decrease the revenue about twenty millions of dollars. This statement of the scope of the bill is published:

The chief change of importance is the free list; to which are added lumber, hemp, jute, coal, salt and iron, lead and copper ore, potatoes, hay, corn, bristles, beeswax, dry woods, unmanufactured cottons and stones. The chief reductions in cotton goods are in the coarse grades of cloths and yarns. The reductions in wool are slight and bear almost entirely on fabrics for carpets and the finer grades. On flax and linen goods about 15 per cent of the duty is taken off. Pig iron is cut down from \$6.72 to \$5.00 per ton. Steel rails are reduced from \$17 to \$12.50. There is also a slight reduction in lead and copper. On all window and plate glass the rate is reduced 25 per cent. China, porcelain and earthenware are cut on an average of 15 per cent. Sugar is reduced 20 per cent, but this reduction is not on number as is to apply to goods from countries where an export tax is imposed.

We learn through a prominent business man of Brattleboro that, so far as he has heard, that town and county will be united for the return of Senator Edmunds. Both Col. Hooker and ex-Speaker Martin, this gentleman reports, support Mr. Edmunds and nearly all the sentiment that we have heard expressed in this county is strongly for Mr. Edmunds' return. The north part of the county we do not know so well; our friends in Vergennes, and the beautiful stretch of prairie that extends to the north and west of them; but we are getting better acquainted every day and expect that their views will accord with those of the more southern part on this question. Mr. Edmunds is showing himself, as usual, a great fighter, and plucks a great way with Vermonters, especially when they know to be joined to it a stalwart honesty that is native and to the man born. Mr. Edmunds has served Vermont faithfully and well and is doing it now. The course that he has taken in insisting that the President should state fairly his reasons for removing public officers, now that he has proclaimed a civil service reform policy, we believe to be right and proper. Otherwise it would seem to us the assertion of this policy is a good deal of a farce.

THE TOWN FARM.

The warning for the town meeting in Middlebury next month contains this article among others:

To see if the town will vote to sell the town farm and personal property thereon, or any part thereof, and reinvest the funds thus received in another and less expensive place for the keeping of the poor; or, if not, to apportion one or more disinterested persons, yearly, to appraise the property on the town farm at the close of each fiscal year.

(Signed) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
Burlington Coasting Club.

CURRENT OPINION.

O'Donovan Ross's losing a great opportunity in neglecting to claim credit for organizing the London mobs.—*Boston Herald*.

Up to the present time the House, despite the changes in the rules which were to make it so much more expeditious, has been the slowest, laziest, and most incompetent that we have had in a long time, and it is hardly conceivable that the level of its reputation will be raised by the thrashing it will give to the old straw of the Porter case.—*New York Times*.

The free trade theorists who are laboring with our manufacturers to instruct them how they can improve their business ought to hear about the learned professor who went into a work shop to explain the operation of an intricate machine. The professor got very angry at the interruption of a workingman, and asked: "Who is that fellow that pretends to know more than I do about that instrument?" "Oh! he is the man that invented it," was the answer.—*Providence Journal*.

town to sell the larger part of its farm, reserving the buildings and a few acres, or sell all of it and buy a small place suited to the purpose, or buy a dozen acres of land and put up suitable buildings thereon. The cost of the establishment need not exceed half the amount now invested. It would require much less help to run such a place and the paupers could be maintained at a less cost to the town. Further, it is said that the buildings need extensive repairs, which must be made at once, that will cost \$10,000 to \$20,000, and that the town will have to borrow the money or raise it, thus increasing the amount invested.

These are, in brief, the arguments of those who favor a new deal. On the other hand, it is said that the total cost of keeping the poor could be materially reduced if business principles were followed in the management of this part of the town's affairs; that the farm would pay expenses, at least, if those who receive aid from the town were sent to the town farm and made to work instead of being kept in idleness in the village. It is the fact, according to those who take this view, that there are a large number of able-bodied persons who lay around doing little or nothing most of the time and then apply to the town and are helped by it when hard up; and it is argued that these ought to go out to the farm and by their labor there relieve the town of a portion of its burdens. If this were done, and the farm managed by a competent man, the whole amount paid out for support of the poor would be much less than it now is; and the paupers as a whole would be better off. The present system of aid, it is held, fosters idleness and crime and the money expended is worse than wasted. Those whose arguments we are stating say that the farm is a good one; that the expense of the proposed repairs need not be so great as heretofore stated, and that, if managed by the right persons, it would be the best thing that the town could have for the purpose.

It is, of course, not for us to say what the town should do; but it will be well worth the voters' while to think the matter over before the meeting, in order that they may act intelligently. The expenses of the town are heavy and cannot be otherwise till some of its debt is paid. It is well, then, to save where possible.

INFORMATION WANTED.

[From the Free Press of Feb. 13.]

When the *Messenger* gets Mr. Edmunds killed off, whom does it propose to make Senator in his place?

THE SECRET DISCOVERED.

[From the Free Press of Feb. 15.]

The *Messenger* exists simply to fight the man who stands in its owner's way to the United States Senate; but it ought not to feel "justified" in stating what is not true, even in such an exigency.

THE BURLINGTON CARNIVAL.

The Burlington coasting club decided Saturday to issue the notice printed below, and so their carnival will come next week, instead of this. It is to be hoped they may succeed finally, as much money has been expended, and the people of the Queen city are prepared to entertain visitors in a first-class manner. The *Free Press* has issued a very handsome illustrated carnival number that would do credit to any newspaper office in the country.

The unusual mild weather leads us to believe it will be wise to postpone our carnival until Feb. 22 to 26, as we do not wish to have people visit us except under the most propitious circumstances. The carnival was inaugurated not for speculation, but for the mutual enjoyment of our guests and ourselves, and we shall not relax any efforts to carry out our original intent. We can assure the people that we will not permit them to come to Burlington unless the weather is suitable to fully carry out our programme, and we are confident that the time fixed will be propitious. The same reduced rates and arrangements upon railroads will be in effect during that week.

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THE ADDISON COUNTY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this organization was held Wednesday afternoon at the Congregational church with a good representation of the temperance people of the county present. In the absence of the president, Rev. Dr. Hamlin, Mrs. Clinton Smith of Middlebury, the vice-president, called the meeting to order and presided. After the 10th Psalm had been read by Rev. C. S. Sargent of New Haven, prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Sargent, Mrs. C. S. Burdett, Mrs. Button and Rev. Mr. Batchelder of Arlington will be invited to deliver the address.

VERMONT MATTERS AT WASHINGTON.

[Boston Journal Dispatch.]

There are conflicting statements in circulation as to the attitude of Mr. Edmunds towards the confirmation of B. B. Smalley of the Democratic National committee as collector of Burlington, Vt. As everything that Mr. Edmunds has said occurred in executive session it is not possible to verify it, but there is reason to believe that he intends to treat the nomination of Smalley exactly as he will treat any other nomination. That means undoubtedly that he will endeavor to ascertain the reasons, or rather the papers, which may have contained the charges against Gen. Wells, who was suspended to make the place for Smalley, and that failing to secure that information he will reserve his decision. The case is still in the hands of the sub-committee, where it is likely to remain for some time. All of the suspended cases are to be treated upon the same basis. Some who ought to be informed are of the opinion that there will be no confirmation of the suspended cases unless the information for which the Senate calls for is forthcoming.

The attention of Senator Edmunds was this morning called to various publications to the effect that he had become a convert to open sessions and that he hoped that the old union of society would be abandoned. To this Mr. Edmunds said: "The statement is entirely without foundation, and, of course, without authority. Undoubtedly in particular instances it would be wise and right, to take off the injunction of secrecy from proceedings both as to treaties and nominations, but in general it must be plain that the discussion of treaties ought to be confidential, the same as discussion by a business firm of their business plans would be private and confidential between the gentlemen concerned; and as to nominations, it often happens that accusations against gentlemen nominated are made of which the Senate feels bound, as a matter of justice and fairness, to inform the candidate without disclosing the names of persons giving such information, in order that the gentleman concerned may have a fair opportunity to defend himself against false and scandalous accusations. It would not be for the public interest in such case where the defenses are complete to publish such things; and again, as to nominations, it often happens that respecting the particular qualifications fitness and capacity of the gentleman proposed there should be absolute freedom of discussion without the fear of injuring the feelings or wounding the sensitivities of the candidate or of his friends. That is the way I feel about this matter and I think the conclusion are wise."

The committee on nominations reported as follows through their chairman, Mr. Barrows, and the report was accepted and adopted: President, M. B. Williamson; vice-presidents, Mrs. Clinton Smith, Rev. C. S. Sargent; secretary and treasurer, E. H. Thorp; executive committee—F. E. Stewart of Weybridge, F. K. Haven of Vergennes, Seneca Hazard of Ferrisburgh; C. E. Smith of Bristol, Rufus Smith of Addison, R. T. Bristol of Panton, Daniel Meader of Monkton, L. W. Stowe of New Haven, C. A. Bump of Salisbury, W. H. Matthews of Cornwell, J. E. Crane of Middlebury, J. W. Jones of Sherrill, Marcellus Royce of Orwell, A. H. Hubbard of Whiting.

Mr. Williamson wished to be excused, but the society declined to do that, especially after Rev. Mr. Speare had stated the president-elect's qualifications for the place. Rev. Mr. Sargent told of the need of temperance work in New Haven, which is the port of entry for Bristol's intoxicants; and Mr. Tupper suggested that a special prosecutor could stop this. James M. Slade of Middlebury spoke at some length. The law, he said, might be made effectual, particularly since Judge Veazey had come to preside in the county court. It is difficult now to find a jury who will not give an honest verdict. Rev. Mr. Speare expressed his pleasure at hearing the better state of things described by Messrs. Tupper and Slade; but he questioned whether prosecutions were pushed as they ought to be in view of these facts; and he did not think temperance people should be blamed as much as they were. It was true, however, that some one was at fault. Possibly the people did not appreciate the extent of the traffic. If they did, then there was a terrible responsibility upon some one who will not give an honest verdict.

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On March 26, 1885, the parent company had \$28,220 transmitters and receivers in use, and its receipts from rent for the preceding year had been \$1,069.42. By the company's own admission the cost of these instruments was only \$360,000, and the value of its telephones for the calendar year 1884 was entered in its statement of assets at only \$358,319, still up on this investment of less than \$360,000 it demanded and received from the local exchanges" an annual rent of nearly \$2,000,000. Here is an enormous annual profit of 350 per cent, which the Bell company exacts from the local exchanges. These exchanges must take another profit from the subscriber. Let us see how much this profit is. About one year ago a person thoroughly familiar with the telephone business estimated the cost of wire, instruments, exchange plant, etc., for an exchange of 4,000 subscribers in this city at \$34,000 a year and the expenses for salaries, repairs, etc., at \$10,200 a year. On the other hand, the receipts for the year from 400 subscribers, at an average annual payment of \$175, would be \$70,000, so that in one year the entire plant would be paid for, the running expenses met and a surplus of \$26,800 laid aside for stockholders. These figures may indicate the size of the profit taken by the local exchange from the subscriber.

What percentage of the capital paid in cash the dividends issued by the Bell company represent it is difficult to ascertain. An official statement presented to the Massachusetts legislature when the company was asking for permission to inflate its capital from \$10,000,000 to \$30,000,000 shows that only \$10,000 was paid into the treasuries of the three companies that preceded the Bell company and were merged into it. After \$9,002,400 in stock had been issued in stock to the National company for property valued by that company at only \$360,000. The Boston *Globe* and other papers have declared that the stock has been watered seven times or by giving to holders for each original share seven new ones; so that the value of the shares, which was at one time very great, has been diluted until the profits do not appear to exceed 17 per cent. But if it be true that the total amount of cash invested did not exceed \$1,000,000, the size of the dividend will appear, for the net earnings of the company in the year ending March 1, 1885, were \$1,710,892, to say nothing of dividends from stock in local companies to the face val-

ue of over \$22,000,000 held by the parent company.

The Bell company has become affiliated to Jay Gould's Western Union telegraph monopoly and is in one sense a branch of that organization. For this reason also it is not in favor with the people. At the beginning of its existence there was a legal contest between the Bell company and the Western Union, which controlled competing patents. This contest ended in a compromise, the Western Union transferring its patents to the Bell company and the latter agreeing to pay one-fifth of its net profits every year to the Western Union and promising to prevent the use of the telephone in competition with the telegraph for the transmission of "general business messages, market quotations or news for sale or publication." Under this contract the Bell company paid to the Western Union in 1885 over \$400,000 and in the four preceding years \$1,044,363. Under its contract it has assisted the Western Union in its work of plundering the people by discriminating against other telegraph companies. In this way it has been the Western Union's servant, to the injury of the public.

STAMFORD REPUBLICAN PAPERS.

[Boston Daily Advertiser.]

The *Boston Daily Advertiser* and the *Boston Evening Record* are now under the management of Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge and Hon. Frederic L. Ames, two of the leading Republicans of Massachusetts, and will be conducted as staunch Republican papers, devoted to the protection of American industries. The new editor of both papers is Mr. Chamberlain, a native of Newbury, Vt., and formerly on the editorial staff of the *Chicago Tribune*. They will pay special attention to Vermont news and the development of Vermont interests.

Mr. Lodge, the managing director, was chairman of the Massachusetts Republican State committee in 1884, and made a brilliant and successful campaign in behalf of Blaine and Logan. Mr. Ames is a prominent member of the noted family of that name.

OBITUARY.

MRS. S. D. AUSTIN.

The community was saddened on Monday of last week by the sudden death of Mrs. Olive Pea, wife of Samuel H. Austin. Mrs. Austin was the eldest daughter of the late Asa Good and was born in Middlebury Jan. 7, 1826.

At the age of nineteen she was married to Mr. Austin, by whom she had three children, Eliza W. L. Billings of Manchester, Mrs. George Copeland of San Diego, Cal., and Albert D.

Austin of this town.

She was a true and faithful wife, a devoted mother, never shrinking from duty nor flinching in her efforts to make home pleasant and happy. The tie was peculiarly strong between mother and children. The light has gone out of the home and husband and children are left desolate. As a neighbor and friend she was kind and sympathetic. "None knew her but to love her." In 1857 she gave her heart to the Lord and united with the Methodist church and since that time she has been a faithful follower of her Saviour, and in her last days gave evidence of her faith in her Redeemer by several passages of scripture and poetry left recorded in her journal. Her works done, we trust she has entered into that rest which remains for those that love the Lord.

On Wednesday morning, the 16th, a large concourse of friends assembled at her late residence to pay their last tribute in respect.

The services were conducted in an impressive manner by her pastor, Rev. Mr. Noy, who took for the subject of his remarks a text selected by the deceased found in Cor. chap. v, part of eight verse—"Willing rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." The remains were interred in the Maple Tree cemetery, there to await the resurrection morn.

—There comes a painful rumor from across the seas that the Irish orange crop has been touched by the frost.—*Boston Transcript*.

—A civil engineer, is he? said Mrs. Parvence to her daughter, who was telling of a gentleman who had paid her marked attention; "Well, I'm glad he was polite, but I don't want you to marry into no railroad family."—N. E. McPh.

—A cautious Londoner, "Hi, Bill, got a match?" "Nothing but one of them parlor matches." "Well, give it to me." "No, I won't!" "Why not?" "You'd scratch it." "Of course I would." "Yes, an' the perlic'd be down on us, un-thinking it was a dynamite outrage."—*Chicago Daily News*.

—I say, ma, let's take your waterproof, said Jimmy Taffoy, as he rushed into the house dripping wet. "Why, you are wet already. The waterproof won't do you any good." "Oh, I don